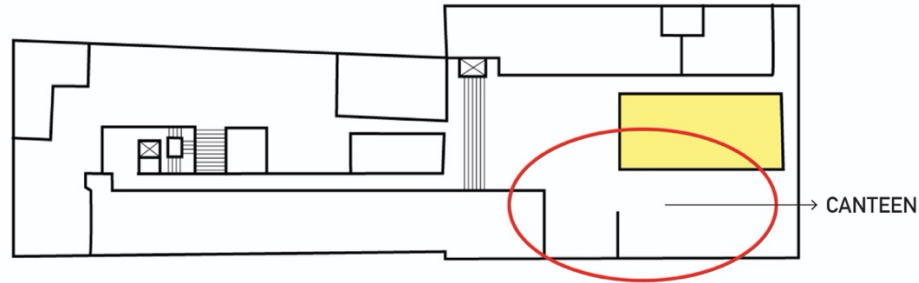


## <Space to Observe>

Willem de Kooning Canteen

Yeju Ha



## Wijnhaven 61 Ground Floor

### 1. Specific facts, numbers, details of what happens at the site

As soon as I enter Wijnhaven, I can see the canteen right away when I turn around the corner. Since there is no door, space gives people open feeling. For me, I think it's important for the space to give welcoming feeling but depends by the purpose. Canteen is important to give students open feeling but it can also give chaotic atmosphere because people from the outside can easily enter too. Also, it blurs the boundary between canteen and the open area. It feels like one of the classrooms in school for me. When I go inside, I can see that the space is very chaotic. There are no space compartments to organize people's movements, and people wander around. It just looks like a one square space full of people. It's difficult to find a seat. People are talking so loudly so I thought I should have visited in other time, but I just decided to observe now because I don't have other choice in this chaotic space.

There are about 30 people in the canteen and in front of the canteen there are plenty of people. I don't know why there is so lot of people maybe it's 12:45 pm now so it's lunch break. All the table there are group of students talking. There is only one man who is doing the laptop alone in front of the entrance, so I thought 'Do I need to bring my friend with me?'. Because almost everybody is talking. 5-6 people are ordering something in the canteen because it's lunch time and the person make the sandwiches. It looks tasty but I don't want to put off my mask, so I give up. Not everybody is eating something. When I take a photo in the Canteen, one student looks at me strangely. I was wondering if I should say I took a photo cause it's a school project. To be honest, I think that if I had to talk to my friends or need to do a teamwork without eating something, I would talk to them somewhere else in school such as open area or avoid the lunch time. I see the shelves full of drinking such as ice tea, coke and juices. I don't usually buy these products because I think it's more expensive than AH.

## 2. Sensory impressions: sights, sounds, textures, smells, taste



**Sight and Textures:** The lights hanging from the ceiling was look like a cloud in the sky which I like the most in this space. The picture on the wall was graphically cool, so I feel like I'm in the space that is an art school. The colour and exterior is great, but I noticed that people's movements overlap every time they pass by if it's crowded. I like the wood and metal material, but I thought what if there is more soft material also? All of the material is made of hard material so it would give warm feeling if they put some soft texture as a point.



Favourite graphic which is on the canteen wall.  
I thought it was a picture with a concept that well explained the canteen.



**Sound, Smells and Taste:** Since it's lunch time I can smell of food. A student sitting next to me is eating sandwiches. Group of three students sitting next to me in the same table. They are speaking in Dutch so I can't really understand what they are talking about. I thought I should have worked harder on the Dutch class that I had at school. Then maybe I can at least have a clue about people's conversation cause sometimes, it's really curious about other people's saying.

In the front table, there are 4 students. I think they are doing assignments together. Maybe a teamwork? It's really noisy in canteen so I can't hardly understand what others saying. It sounds like echo or murmuring.

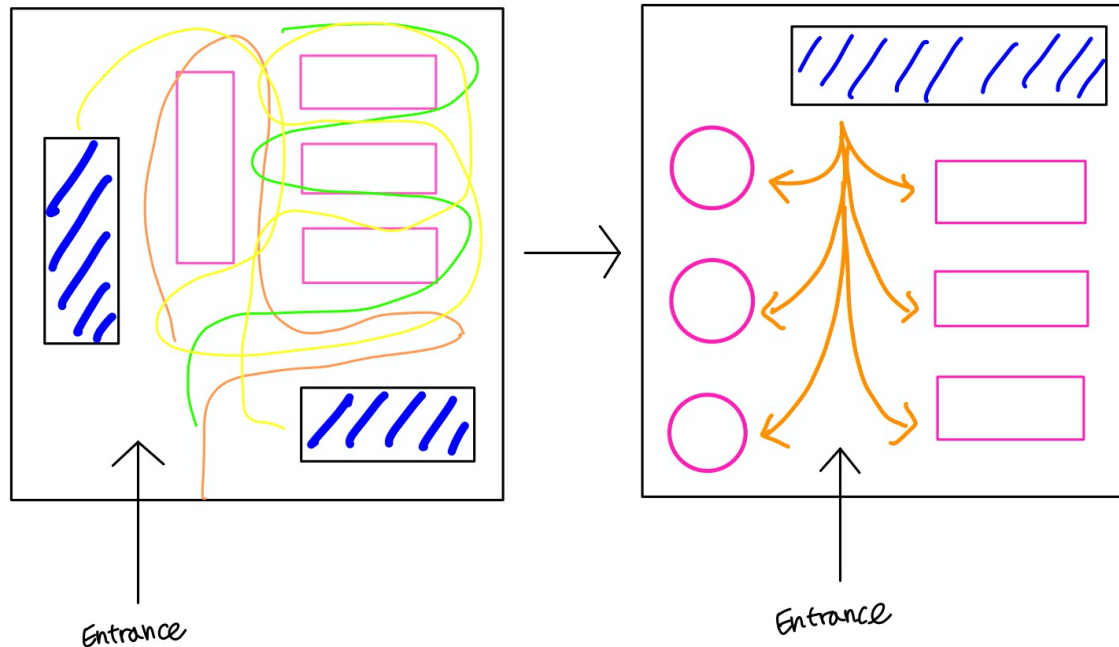
Next table, there are 5 girls taking together but they are not eating something. Only 2 bottle of water is on the table. One of the girls sounds of laughing is unique which is quite memorable.

Other table students are talking and eating bread.

Overall sound is complex because sound of making food, conversation of the people in the canteen and out of the canteen is all mixed. It's hard to focus on the one people's saying. I think it's better to turn off the music and turn it on again after the lunch break.



### 3. Personal responses to the fact of recording fieldnotes



I select to observe the space so, I start to draw the rough sketch in the canteen that how I want to change this space. The area that people can buy some food and drink is divided so I thought it would be nice to put it together. People's routing look quiet complex when I watch people passing by. Hallway can make people find seat easier and comfortable.

For the interior, wall that looks right after I enter is decorated with really nice graphic design so I think in this design people can easily focused on this wall when enter. It will look better if there is sufficient table and chair. Also, I think what if there is a different shape of desk in this space? Because design atmosphere in this space is quite unfriendly. For example, in the canteen some are doing projects or studying, others doing making a conversation. So, I thought maybe a soft and colourful for students who is doing social activity and eating.



I sit here like 10 minutes and think this kind of chair is uncomfortable for the backs.

#### 4. Specific words phrases, summaries of conversations, and insider language

I sat on the one table for like 45 minutes. People are speaking Dutch and English. Students who are sitting next to me speaking in Dutch. I can understand the 'Nei' cause one person frequently speaking that. Next table group is doing their assignment I suppose. They look quiet concentrating and serious. I think how they can concentrate well in this noisy environment. Other table people are talking and eating bread. Then, the group of students left so, I change my seat to another table to observe the space in different perspective. Desk is little bit dirty with drinks and food. Only one man is doing his laptop and he make a phone call several times. I can see him but it's hard to listen what he is talking about.

#### 5. Questions about people or behaviours at the site for future investigation

My biggest question is why students sitting in the Canteen not eating or ordering something? Because Canteen is noisy right now and it's not appropriate for just talking. It's really hard to concentrating others talking. However, students are staying there for just talking or teamwork. I think for the future investigation, I'll ask people why they are not using school library to study alone or classroom/open area for the teamwork. I didn't buy anything in the canteen, but nobody tells me that I need to buy something. If the place is comfortable with eating and talking and reasonable price to buy something. I'm sure that it will be the better meeting point in our school.

Other question is when it's full of people it's hard to hear people's talking. Also, it's mixed with the music which makes noisier. I think it will be better to turn off the music in the lunch time.

## 6. Visual representation of the site observed, where are you in relation to what you are observing

As a non-participant in making observation, I try to make the subject of observation would not even know I was watching them and the space they are in. However, when I take a photo, some students noticed me. I didn't interfere with the subject's actions. If I have another chance to observe this space, I think I'll be a participant in this space. Because I have a question about people's behaviour and their thoughts about the school canteen.

To sum up, I try to observe the space. Space can affect people's behaviour. It's interesting to observe. I sit on one of the tables and observe the space. Canteen is chaotic in the lunch time that I can't hear people's conversation. Drawing on the wall and lights are the things I like most in this space. However, there is no division in this area. If there is a division in this space it will be efficient to use the space by purpose. So I focused on people's routing and floor plan of the canteen.